CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for dialing a phone number having an area code and a local phone number, comprising:

storing the area code within a self–contained telephonic apparatus;

selecting the area code for recall prior to initiating entry of the local phone number into the telephonic apparatus;

entering the local phone number into the telephonic apparatus;

automatically recalling the selected area code in response to the ~~selection of the area code and~~ entry of the local phone number; and

sequentially transmitting the recalled area code and entered local phone number from the telephonic apparatus.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the recalled area code and entered local phone number are transmitted from an area code overlay region, and the stored area code is the base area code of the area code overlay region.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the recalled area code and entered local phone number are transmitted from an area code overlay region, and the stored area code is the overlaying area code of the area code overlay region.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the recalled area code and entered local phone number are transmitted from a standard area code region having a first area code, and the stored area code is a second area code different from the first area code.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting a long distance access number prior to transmitting the recalled area code.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the long distance access number is the digit "one."

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the long distance access number is a multi–digit number that includes the digit "one" as the first digit.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

storing a long distance access number within the telephonic apparatus;

recalling the stored long distance access number in response to the entered local phone number; and

transmitting the recalled long distance access number prior to transmitting the recalled area code.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the recalled area code and entered local phone number are transmitted by generating corresponding DTMF signals.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising storing a plurality of area codes within the telephonic apparatus, and selecting one of the plurality of area codes for recall, wherein the recalled area code is the selected one of the plurality of area codes.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the telephonic apparatus comprises an area code programming key, and the area code is stored by operating the area code programming key.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying the selected area code on the telephonic apparatus.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the telephonic apparatus is a telephone.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the local phone number is entered by sequentially entering one or more initial digits and remaining digits, the area code is recalled in response to entry of the last of the one or more initial digits, and the area code, one or more initial digits, and remaining entered digits are sequentially transmitted.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

storing the one or more initial digits; and

recalling the stored area code prior to transmitting the one or more initial digits.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the one or more initial digits is the first digit.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the area code is recalled in response to an operation of a phone number transmission key.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for making a call from a self–contained telephonic apparatus, comprising:

storing an area code within the telephonic apparatus;

selecting the stored area code for recall prior to initiating entry of a phone number into the telephonic apparatus;

entering the phone number into the telephonic apparatus;

determining if the entered phone number is a local phone number;

if the entered phone number is a local phone number, automatically recalling the selected area code in response to the ~~selection of the area code and~~ entry of the phone number, and sequentially transmitting the recalled area code and the entered phone number from the telephonic apparatus; and

if the entered phone number is not a local phone number, transmitting the entered phone number from the telephonic apparatus without transmitting the selected area code.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the phone number is transmitted from an area code overlay region.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the phone number is transmitted from a standard area code region.

21. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising transmitting a long distance access number prior to transmitting the recalled area code if the entered phone number is a local phone number.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the first digit of the long distance access number is the digit "one."

23. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the long distance access number is a multi–digit number that includes the digit "one" as the first digit.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising:

storing a long distance access number within the telephonic apparatus; and

if the entered phone number is a local phone number, recalling the long distance access number in response to entry of the phone number, and sequentially transmitting the recalled long distance access number, recalled area code, and entered phone number.

25. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the telephonic apparatus is a telephone.

26. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the local phone number determination comprises determining a characterization of one or more digits contained with the phone number.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the entered phone number is determined to be a local phone number if a first digit of the entered phone number is not the first digit of a long distance access number.

28. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the entered phone number is determined to be a local phone number if a first digit of the entered phone number is not the first digit of a long distance access number, and the one or more digits do not represent a special service phone number.

29. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the local phone number determination comprises determining a total number of digits contained with the entered phone number.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the entered phone number is determined to be a local phone number if the entered phone number contains only seven digits.

31. (Currently Amended) A self–contained telephonic apparatus for dialing a phone number having an area code and a local phone number, comprising:

a memory configured for storing the area code;

a user interface configured for allowing a user to select the stored area code for recall and to enter the local phone number;

a transmitter;

control circuitry coupled to the user interface and configured for receiving the entered local phone number from the user interface, the control circuitry coupled to the memory, and configured for automatically recalling the selected area code from the memory in response to entry of the local phone number, the control circuitry coupled to the transmitter, and configured for controlling the transmitter to sequentially transmit the recalled area code and entered local phone number; and

a housing containing the user interface, memory, transmitter, and control circuitry.

32. (Original) The telephonic apparatus of claim 31, wherein the user interface is a keypad.

33. (Original) The telephonic apparatus of claim 31, wherein the memory is non–volatile.

34. (Original) The telephonic apparatus of claim 31, wherein the transmitter is a DTMF transmitter.

35. (Original) The telephonic apparatus of claim 31, wherein the control circuitry comprises a central processing unit.

36. (Original) The telephonic apparatus of claim 31, wherein the memory is configured for storing a long distance access number, and the control circuitry is further configured for recalling the long distance access number from the memory, and for controlling the transmitter to transmit the recalled long distance access number prior to transmitting the recalled area code.

37. (Original) The telephonic apparatus of claim 31, wherein the user interface comprises a keypad having a plurality of area code selection keys, the memory is configured for storing a plurality of area codes, and the control circuitry is further configured for selecting one of the plurality of area codes from the memory in response to operation of a corresponding one of the plurality of area code selection keys, wherein the recalled area code is the selected area code.

38. (Original) The telephonic apparatus of claim 31, wherein the user interface comprises a keypad having an area code programming key, and is further configured for allowing the user to enter the area code, and the control circuitry is further configured for receiving the entered area code, and storing the received area code in the memory in response to operation of the area code programming key.

39. (Original) The telephonic apparatus of claim 31, wherein the area code programming key is a dedicated area code programming key.

40. (Original) The telephonic apparatus of claim 31, wherein the area code programming key is a non–dedicated area code programming key.

41. (Original) The telephonic apparatus of claim 31, further comprising a display coupled to the control circuitry, wherein the control circuitry is configured for controlling the display to exhibit the stored area code.

42. (Original) The telephonic apparatus of claim 31, wherein the control circuitry is configured for recalling the area code in response to the last of one or more initial digits of the entered local phone number.

43. (Original) The telephonic apparatus of claim 42, wherein the control circuitry is further configured for storing the one or more initial digits in the memory when entered, and recalling the stored one or more initial digits after the recalled area code has been transmitted.

44. (Original) The telephone apparatus of claim 31, wherein the user interface comprises a phone number transmission key, and the control circuitry is configured for recalling the area code in response to operation of the phone number transmission key.

45. (Currently Amended) A self–contained telephonic apparatus for making a call, comprising:

a memory configured for storing an area code;

a user interface configured for allowing a user to select the stored area code for recall and to enter the local phone number;

a transmitter; and

control circuitry coupled to the user interface, memory, and transmitter, the control circuitry configured for receiving the phone number from the user interface, for determining if the received phone number is a local phone number, for automatically recalling the selected area code from the memory and controlling the transmitter to sequentially transmit the recalled area code and received phone number if the received phone number is a local phone number, and for controlling the transmitter to transmit the received phone number without transmitting the area code if the received phone number includes a long distance access number; and

a housing containing the user interface, memory, transmitter, and control circuitry.

46. (Currently Amended) The telephonic apparatus of claim 45, wherein the control circuitry is further configured for controlling the transmitter to transmit a long distance access number prior to transmitting the recalled area code if the received phone number is ~~not~~ a local phone number.

47. (Original) The telephonic apparatus of claim 45, wherein the control circuitry is configured for determining if the received phone number is a local phone number by determining a characterization of one or more digits contained with the received phone number.

48. (Original) The telephonic apparatus of claim 45, wherein the control circuitry is configured for determining if the received phone number is a local phone number by determining a total number of digits contained with the received phone number.